

# AEB Looks to Automated Logistic Solutions to Anchor the Future

With the digital revolution taking over every aspect of life, businesses need to keep up lest they be left in the dust of innovation. Supply chain management and logistics are no exceptions. By integrating advanced technologies into these business aspects, enterprises can save both time and expenses.

Global end-to-end supply chain IT solutions provider AEB held a talk during the 2016 SCMAP Supply Chain Conference at the EDSA Shangri-La. Markus Meissner, AEB managing director, and Frans Kok, AEB general manager were on hand to discuss the supply chain automation landscape, where the Internet of Things (IoT) enters the picture, and the upcoming advent of automated and dynamic logistics handling.

## The internet of logistical things

"With IoT, we gain information not only from typical devices like smartphones and computers, but also all the materials, products, and humans involved from warehouse to warehouse. All these create information that are shared between cyber-physical being to cyber-physical being. The more information is shared between participants in the supply chain, the more opportunities you gain in terms of business models and automation improvements," commented Meissner.

"If we get all these information, we can do so much more. We'll gain efficiency, manage resources better, and collaborate better. IoT also enables big data and predictive analytics which help us arrive at sound decisions today that we weren't able to easily access in the past," he continued.

Combined with IoT, the dawn of autonomous vehicles, driverless cars, and 3D printing is expected to further disrupt the relatively stable progress of logistics. Meissner noted, "Over the past few decades, the supply chain didn't really have a drastic change, but as newer technologies come in, the next few years will really experience a major shift. We will gain much more flexibility in terms of how, when, and where goods are produced and delivered."



## As you order, where you order

On the other hand, autonomous vehicles should allow for quick and easy dispatch of items, whether in single orders or in bulk. Since they are machines, they can run for 24 hours straight before needing to be inspected and maintained. They can also be configured to be only as big as what they're carrying and they can be programmed to drive carefully and defensively, helping ease road congestion. Additionally, as with the Amazon Prime Air drone program, automated flyers can quickly make a beeline to their customers, delivering their orders only a few hours after they've placed them.

This also opens the door for a more dynamic delivery system. Kok explained, "In the future, when you want a parcel delivered, you can choose

where it goes. Maybe to your house, to a drop off station where you can walk by later to pick it up, or to where you are on the road. If you're here during this time, but two hours later you'll be in a different place, you'd still get your package. Of course, this will require a whole new level of integration and flexibility, and that's something we should expect in the future."

Though the backend of supply chain and logistics automation may seem drab, the effects that consumers see are certainly not. Automatic orders, faster and more accurate shipments, safer roads, and generally more convenient life—those are just some of the things that we should look forward to as business processes get more streamlined and efficient.

